

SPEYSIDE PROJECT FINAL REPORT

CCS OCCASIONAL PAPER No. 6



Published by the Countryside Commission for Scotland, Battleby, Redgorton, Perth

**TIONAL
RANGER
SERVICE
MOOTED**

CAIRNGORMS BACK TO 'ORIGINAL WILDERNESS'

DAILY TELEGRAPH REPORTER

First Step towards a
A WEEK-LONG clearance campaign has already begun among some of the highest peaks in the Cairngorms. The first step towards a national ranger service, which would include the Cairngorms, is being taken by the Countryside Commission. The Commission is launching a massive clean-up campaign in the Cairngorms area, which will involve the removal of all litter and rubbish from the mountains. The campaign is being organised by the Countryside Commission, which is a government department responsible for the management of the countryside. The Commission is currently working on a plan to create a national ranger service, which would be responsible for the management of the countryside. The Cairngorms are one of the most beautiful areas in Scotland, and it is important that they are kept in their original state. The clean-up campaign is a vital part of this effort, and it is hoped that it will encourage more people to take an interest in the Cairngorms and to help to keep them clean.

LITTER LIFTERS

Volunteers, nearly all English holiday-makers, were out on the mountains yesterday in the Countryside Commission campaign to clear litter from the Cairngorms.

Cairngorms clean-up

A massive clean-up campaign in the Cairngorms is being launched at the weekend by the Countryside Commission. A similar campaign was held last year, when over 100 volunteers helped to clear the mountains of litter. The Commission is hoping to repeat this success this year, and is encouraging anyone who is visiting the Cairngorms to take part. The clean-up will involve the removal of all litter and rubbish from the mountains, and the volunteers will be working in teams to clear the different areas. The Commission is also providing a guide to the Cairngorms, which will help visitors to find their way around the mountains and to see the best of the scenery. The Commission is a government department responsible for the management of the countryside, and it is committed to keeping the Cairngorms in their original state. The clean-up campaign is a vital part of this effort, and it is hoped that it will encourage more people to take an interest in the Cairngorms and to help to keep them clean.

Speyside project could pioneer ranger service

Speyside launch mountain clean-up

Countryside Commission
The Countryside Commission is launching a massive clean-up campaign in the Cairngorms area, which will involve the removal of all litter and rubbish from the mountains. The campaign is being organised by the Countryside Commission, which is a government department responsible for the management of the countryside. The Commission is currently working on a plan to create a national ranger service, which would be responsible for the management of the countryside. The Cairngorms are one of the most beautiful areas in Scotland, and it is important that they are kept in their original state. The clean-up campaign is a vital part of this effort, and it is hoped that it will encourage more people to take an interest in the Cairngorms and to help to keep them clean.

LITTER LIFTERS CLEAN UP THE CAIRNGORMS

Big clean-up in Cairngorm area

TIDYING UP THE CAIRNGORMS
The Countryside Commission is launching a massive clean-up campaign in the Cairngorms area, which will involve the removal of all litter and rubbish from the mountains. The campaign is being organised by the Countryside Commission, which is a government department responsible for the management of the countryside. The Commission is currently working on a plan to create a national ranger service, which would be responsible for the management of the countryside. The Cairngorms are one of the most beautiful areas in Scotland, and it is important that they are kept in their original state. The clean-up campaign is a vital part of this effort, and it is hoped that it will encourage more people to take an interest in the Cairngorms and to help to keep them clean.

his instructors, are on a course at the Speyside Commission officer Mr. Malcolm Payne, of the Countryside Commission for Speyside, is organising the campaign. The clean-up will involve the removal of all litter and rubbish from the mountains, and the volunteers will be working in teams to clear the different areas. The Commission is also providing a guide to the Cairngorms, which will help visitors to find their way around the mountains and to see the best of the scenery. The Commission is a government department responsible for the management of the countryside, and it is committed to keeping the Cairngorms in their original state. The clean-up campaign is a vital part of this effort, and it is hoped that it will encourage more people to take an interest in the Cairngorms and to help to keep them clean.

Speyside clean-up

morrows clean-up
The Countryside Commission is launching a massive clean-up campaign in the Cairngorms area, which will involve the removal of all litter and rubbish from the mountains. The campaign is being organised by the Countryside Commission, which is a government department responsible for the management of the countryside. The Commission is currently working on a plan to create a national ranger service, which would be responsible for the management of the countryside. The Cairngorms are one of the most beautiful areas in Scotland, and it is important that they are kept in their original state. The clean-up campaign is a vital part of this effort, and it is hoped that it will encourage more people to take an interest in the Cairngorms and to help to keep them clean.

'CLEAN-UP' DRIVE TO THE CAIRNGORMS

morrows clean-up
The Countryside Commission is launching a massive clean-up campaign in the Cairngorms area, which will involve the removal of all litter and rubbish from the mountains. The campaign is being organised by the Countryside Commission, which is a government department responsible for the management of the countryside. The Commission is currently working on a plan to create a national ranger service, which would be responsible for the management of the countryside. The Cairngorms are one of the most beautiful areas in Scotland, and it is important that they are kept in their original state. The clean-up campaign is a vital part of this effort, and it is hoped that it will encourage more people to take an interest in the Cairngorms and to help to keep them clean.

Second massive clean-up planned

COUNTRYSIDE
The Countryside Commission is launching a massive clean-up campaign in the Cairngorms area, which will involve the removal of all litter and rubbish from the mountains. The campaign is being organised by the Countryside Commission, which is a government department responsible for the management of the countryside. The Commission is currently working on a plan to create a national ranger service, which would be responsible for the management of the countryside. The Cairngorms are one of the most beautiful areas in Scotland, and it is important that they are kept in their original state. The clean-up campaign is a vital part of this effort, and it is hoped that it will encourage more people to take an interest in the Cairngorms and to help to keep them clean.

Cairngorm Forges RANGE REQU CAIR Cairngorm cleanest f

UNIQUE, EXCI OPPORTUNI Co-ordinat

SCOTTISH SUNDAY EXPRESS Glasgow August 6 1961

A 4,296 clean li

Operat

Litter blitz

s Clean-Up

ead

and defaces the countryside.
"Splendid campaigns have
taken place in Moray and
Aberdeenshire this past few
months, and the message is

SERVICE
ED FOR
GORMS
"at their

50 years"

BIG BID TO
G CLEAN UP

THE ... Volunteers from three to 6
ranger service help clean Cairngorms

climb to
er off a
mountain
'Mop-up'
Cairngorms

HIGH LEVEL
LITTER
AIR LIFT?

MEMBERS of Strathspey Mountain Club cleared
more litter yesterday from the Shelter Stone, which
represents the biggest problem of the Cairngorm
clean-up campaign.

Mrs Mollie Porter, King of
ussie, international
and man

Operation Clean-up

organised for
Cairngorm area

Interest in Cairngorm

THE clean-up of the
ay spark
the area
ATC sq
ed aircraft
olm Payne
de comi
ho organise
on the
high is now

ANTI-LITTER
CAMPAIGN
IN FULL SWING

Anti-litter mo
in mountain

Mr Malcolm Payne,
Countryside Commission off
for Speyside, is

other clean-up campai
Speyside area, and
nds of acres of
orms, is being laur
weekend by Mr Mal
Countryside Comm
for Speyside,
year the first moun

an-up of the
untains and
esterday af
Malcolm Pay
Commiss
used the ca
response fr
is big as

The Cairngorm Sports Develop- Mrs
ment Company, who operate the as t
also cleared about of B

Clean-up up there

THE Cairngorms are practically cl
litter for the first time in 50 ye
thanks to nearly 400 volunteers who to
in a weekend clean-up.

They filled 370 4296ft) the
sacks with rubbish— stain in the t
which included

TREMENDOUS RESPONSE TO
ANTI-LITTER CAMPAIGN

THE first large-scale clear
mountains and valleys ende
Malcolm Payne, Cromdake,
mission's officer, who organ
the response from the public

The week-long campaign p
attracted the notice of press, S
radio and TV

THE BIGGEST CAIRNGORM
CLEAN-UP OF 'EM ALL

NEXT week will see the start of
campaign which will cover not
Valley from Newtonmore to Gr

Clean-Up Campaign

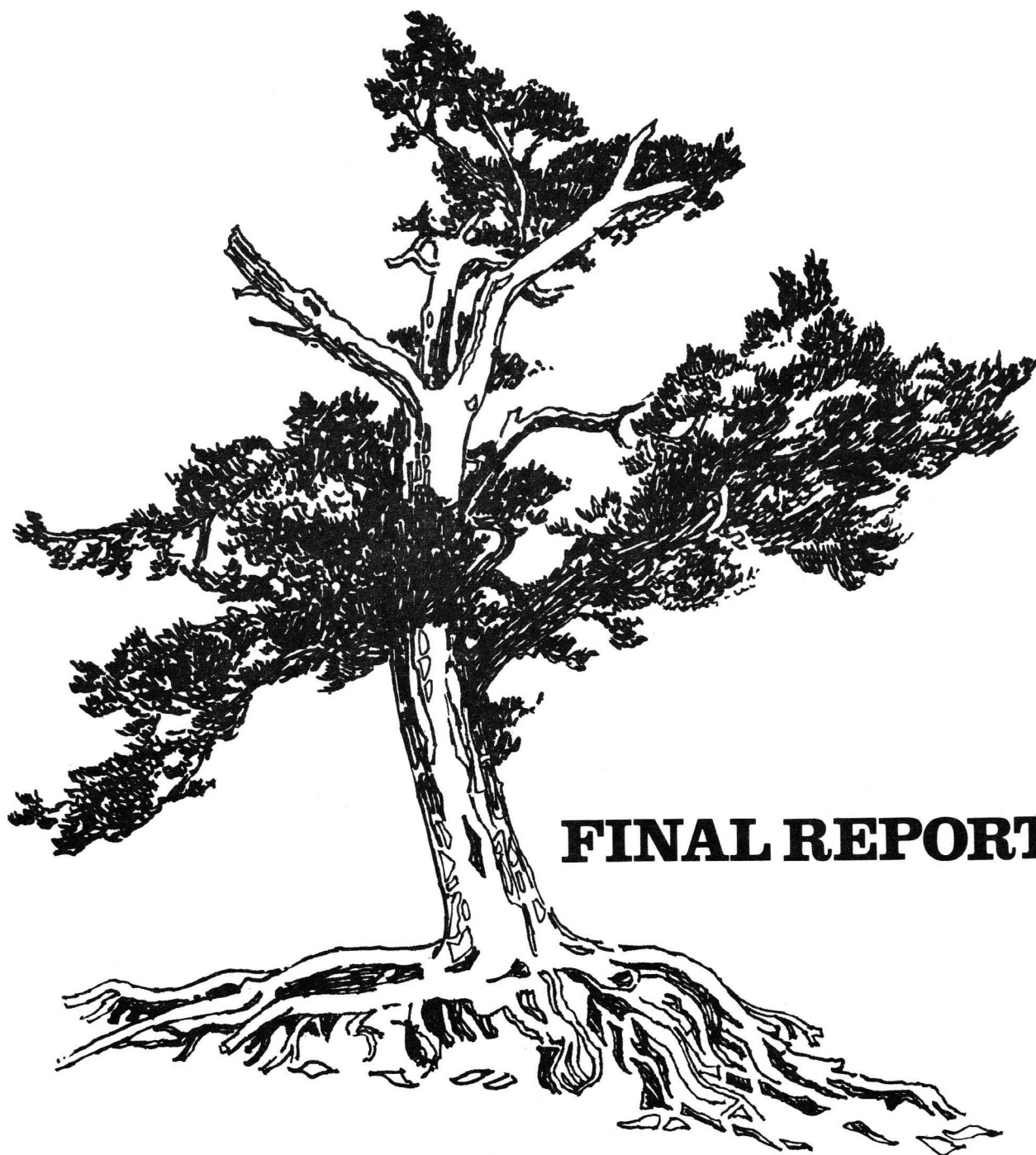
5000 TINS REMOVED
FROM MOUNTAINS

ich the previous year
arn- campaign yielded
ek sacks. Much of
accumulated litter

400 Summer-clean

1 Brownies to husky mountaineers,

SPEYSIDE PROJECT



FINAL REPORT

Countryside Commission for Scotland
Battleby, Redgorton, Perth

July 1975



FRONTISPIECE:

Looking from Craigellachie Hill across Rothiemurchus and Glenmore forests to the Cairngorms, with the cleft of the Lairig Ghru on the right. In the foreground is the new bridge over the Spey which carries the ski road past the Coylumbridge Hotel (left middle distance) to Cairngorm. The Aviemore Centre lies immediately to the left foreground, just out of the picture.

CONTENTS

	Page
Foreword	
Acknowledgements	
Chapter One Setting the Scene	1
Chapter Two How the Project Began	7
Chapter Three Summary of Main Events 	14
Chapter Four Results : The Work of Three Years	17
Chapter Five Discussion and Conclusions 	32
Bibliography	
Appendix 1 The Speyside Project : Chronology of Main Events	
Appendix 2 The Proposed Rothiemurchus Access Agreement : Chronology of Main Events	

MAPS

1. Speyside Area	2
2. Patrol Areas and Estate Boundaries	5
3. Walking Routes in the Cairngorms	15

PHOTOGRAPHS

Frontispiece The Cairngorms from the Aviemore Centre	
1. Ranger Service Land-Rover	20
2. Collected Litter at Cairngorm Car-Park	20
3. Loch Morlich Beach	28
4. Coire Cas: Improvements	28
5. Roadside Car-Parking at Loch Morlich	30
6. The Common Ranger Badge: Loch Morlich	30
7. Cleaning-Up the Mountains: Ben Macdhui	31
8. Helping Visitors: the Lairig Ghru	31

In this report all references to "the Commission" or "the Act" or specific parts of the Act, refer to the Countryside Commission for Scotland, and the Countryside (Scotland) Act 1967 or to specific parts of that Act.

FOREWORD

The Speyside Project is about people and rangers: people enjoying recreation as visitors in the countryside and rangers employed under the Countryside (Scotland) Act to encourage good behaviour by these visitors.

The duties of a ranger are many; they always involve giving information, they may include upholding byelaws and, in some situations, saving human life can be an actual rather than theoretical part of a ranger's work. The long-term conservation of the countryside which visitors come to enjoy is an important part of a ranger's approach to his job. If - as is often the case - the countryside is also used for agriculture, sport, forestry or nature conservation, then the ranger must have regard to these interests in considering how to perform his daily task.

If all visitors to countryside understood and respected its complex ecology and the national, local and individual investment in land, if no visitor broke the Country Code and if no one placed himself or people in his care at risk in venturing into wild and potentially dangerous terrain, then there would be no need of rangers. Unfortunately, actual experience of visitors in many parts of the Scottish countryside shows that, even although the proportion of people requiring the guidance of rangers may not be increasing, the total number of visitors to the countryside is rising; so much so, that in some areas severe problems are beginning to arise for those responsible for the management of the countryside to which the visitor has access.

The objects of the Speyside Project were to demonstrate over a trial period that the presence of even a small ranger service in a part of Highland Scotland subject to intensive recreation use could significantly help to alleviate some of these problems; to do so in such a way as to substantiate the need for the service to be set up on a permanent basis; and to show how this could be done. The persons employed to fulfill these three objects were called Project Officers. Part of their job was to act as if they were rangers - this was the demonstration function and the first objective. The other two objectives involved collecting information on many factors thought to be relevant to the effective performance of a ranger service, reporting regularly to the Commission on the progress of the whole project, and making recommendations pertinent to the fulfillment of its aims.

In addition, for reasons explained in Chapter 2, a somewhat special extra function came to be associated with the particular kind of ranger service demonstrated by the Speyside Project. This extra function was to explore

how a new and permanent service might be able to co-ordinate the activities of people already employed in Speyside partly to carry out ranger-type duties, and to do so in such a way as to provide a better overall service to the community.

The structure of this final report on the project is as follows. Having set the scene in Chapter 1, in Chapter 2 the origins of the project are explained and these - because we are dealing with historical fact - show a development containing elements which do not always form a logical progression. Chapter 3 summarises the major events over the three year trial period and Chapter 4 reports on the results. Chapter 5 attempts to present an objective critique of the project and to draw conclusions.

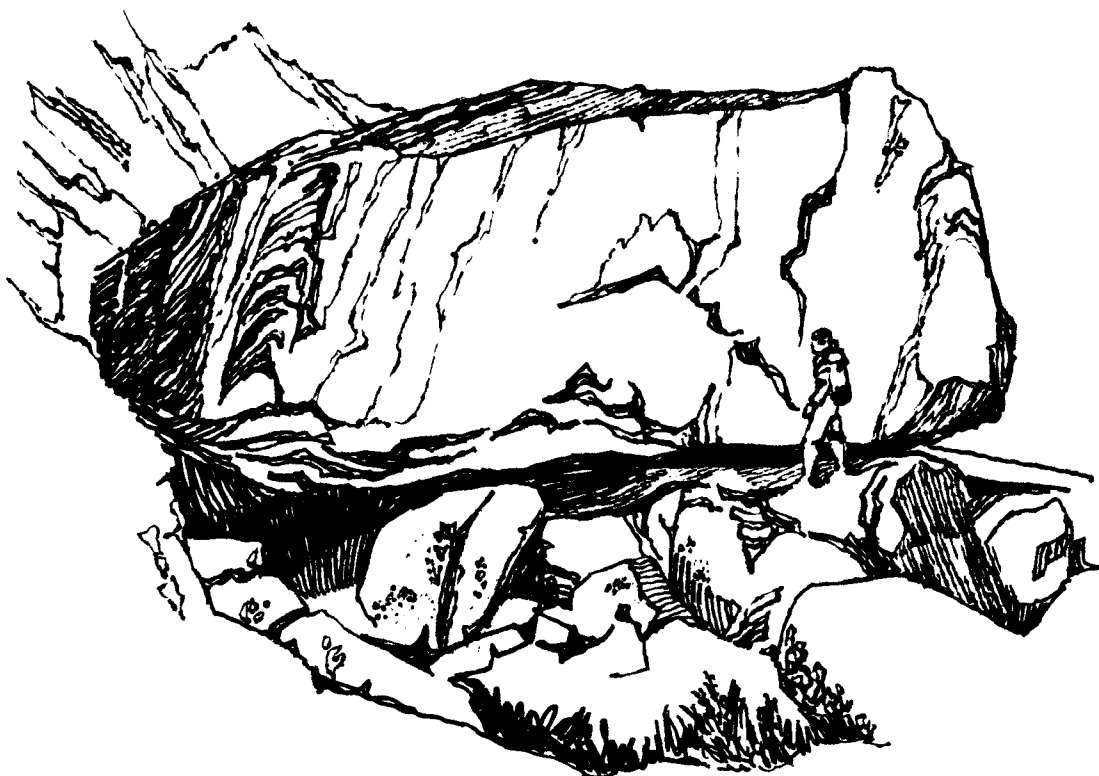
The last chapter has proved the most difficult to write, in part because aspects of the project became caught up in the developing thinking of the Commission about a number of related topics. These included the concept of a parks system for Scotland and the role which the emerging new local authorities might play in its development, the idea of a national ranger service and the difficulties being encountered in negotiating access agreements to open country.

The Commission's broad conclusions are essentially two-fold. On the one hand, as a demonstration of the need for a ranger service, the Commission consider that the project has been wholly successful. Within the limitations imposed by the numerically small project staff, it did undoubtedly help significantly to alleviate many of the problems being caused by visitors to Speyside, and this function was discharged in such a way as to enhance the enjoyment of visitors to that area. It is as a direct result of this success that the Commission, acting as agents for the Highlands and Islands Development Board, are employing one of the Project Officers as a full-time Ranger operating over the Board's Cairngorm Estate. On the other hand, the project has not yet succeeded in stimulating the creation of an integrated ranger service, but it is felt that the case for such a comprehensive Speyside ranger service on a permanent basis has been well demonstrated and that it can only be a matter of time before action to this end is initiated by the appropriate agencies of local government and the national agencies with interests in this area.

Various explanations may be offered as to why, in this second respect, the project has so far not resulted in further progress. The Commission considers that a major factor is the lack of legislative powers available for putting into practice what many sections of opinion in the countryside so earnestly

desire. It would be wrong, however, to ascribe lack of legislative powers as the only impediment. Not every agency which could do so is willing to accept responsibility for taking part in setting up and managing a ranger service. Some agencies which already employ staff in Speyside carrying out ranger-type activities have yet to recognise the benefits which could accrue from greater co-ordination of their duties. But even this is too simple an explanation. There are real problems of differing priorities amongst different ownerships and organisation, and to be truly effective, the development of a comprehensive ranger service must go hand in hand with an overall land use management structure.

Such problems cannot be passed over too hastily, simply because there is a goal worth achieving. And therefore, in acknowledging frankly that one of the project's objectives has not been achieved, it is the Commission's hope that it will at least lead to more purposeful debate about creating countryside ranger services. Other lessons have been learnt, too, and for readers interested less in the mechanics of ranger services and more in the running of similar experimental kinds of countryside projects, it is hoped that this report will be of value.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Countryside Commission for Scotland wishes to thank the many individuals and representatives of national and local bodies, in both the public and private sectors, for their assistance, support, stimulus and interest shown in the Speyside Project. Without their valuable and constructive criticism, this Final Report would have lacked much in the objective approach it has tried to maintain, in regard to a subject of such close interest to its work.

To the Project staff; Mr M A Payne, the Project Officer, Mr J F Porter, the Assistant Project Officer, and to Mrs Mollie Porter and other seasonal assistants, the Commission owes a special thanks, because it was in their persons only that the Project existed.

Mr Payne is now the Commission's Ranger Services Advisory Officer with duties covering all of Scotland, and Mr Porter is the Commission's first permanent ranger, operating over the Cairngorm Estate of the Highlands and Islands Development Board, by an agreement between the Commission and the Board.

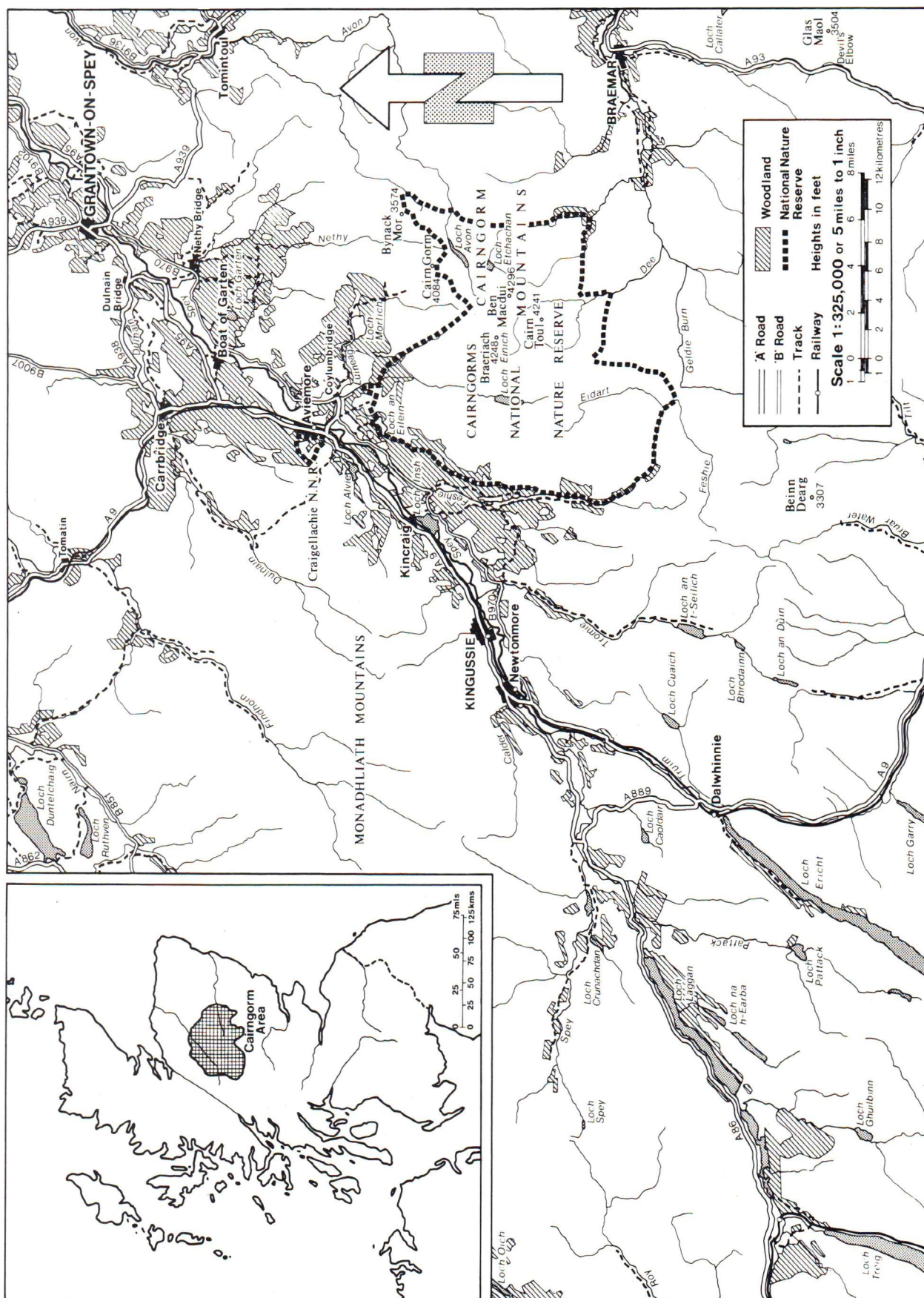


CHAPTER ONE

SETTING THE SCENE

- 1.1 "Speyside" is a name which can refer to more than one part of Strath Spey, from the source of the River Spey near Loch Laggan in Inverness-shire to its mouth on the eastern coast of Moray. For example, a recent report published by the North East Scotland Development Authority (18*) is entitled "The Speyside Study", although referring to an area only just overlapping with the subject of this report. Here, the focus of interest centres on a rectangle of country, roughly ten miles by five miles, stretching south-eastwards from the village of Aviemore to the summit plateau of Cairngorm. To a variably lesser extent, it deals also with activities extending down river to Grantown-on-Spey and up river to Newtonmore, about 35 miles from Grantown.
- 1.2 Interested readers, unfamiliar with this part of the Central Highlands of Scotland, are referred to publications listed in Part I of the Bibliography for background information. Strath Spey and the Cairngorms have been the subject of so many published accounts in books and articles that it is unnecessary to add to the length of this report by including another general description here. Maps 1 and 2 show the disposition of most places and features of direct relevance to the report but, here too, the interested reader unfamiliar with the ground will be much helped if he can refer, for example, to the excellent one inch to one mile Ordnance Survey Tourist Map of the Cairngorms.
- 1.3 At the outset, it is necessary to explain in broad terms why the Countryside Commission for Scotland should have become involved in Speyside. The Commission was established under the Countryside (Scotland) Act, 1967 to "exercise the functions conferred on them by this Act for the provision, development and improvement of facilities for the enjoyment of the Scottish countryside, and for the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty and amenity thereof". In the exercise of these functions, the Commission is enjoined to have regard "to the need for the development of recreational and tourist facilities and for the balanced economic and social development of the countryside". These are broad aims and in its early years, without the benefit of experience on which to base a long-term strategy for action, it was to be expected that the Commission should have focussed its attention quickly on those areas most obviously demanding help.

* Figures in brackets refer to the Bibliography.



Map 1, The Speyside area of the Cairngorms showing principal population centres along the Spey Valley: shaded area shows the Cairngorms NNR. Inset map indicates the 1500 square mile area covered by the 1967 Cairngorm report of the Technical Group.

The Torridon area was one, Glen Coe and Rannoch Moor another and both became the subject of substantial reports (22 and 23). The Speyside area was a third but in this case no general conspectus was required because this area had then but recently been included in the report (24) of a Technical Group set up by the Scottish Development Department in 1962 to consider the whole of the Cairngorm area, interpreted for that purpose extensively - see boundaries shown in map 1 (inset). The Cairngorms were discussed also in the report of Study Group No 9 (25).

- 1.4 The significant fact about the Speyside area covered in this report, is that over the last decade it has been transformed into one of the most important - some might say the most important - places in Scotland for tourism and outdoor recreation. This choice of location for the injection of large capital sums, both from central government funds and the private sector, was partly stimulated by the Scottish Council of Physical Recreation's successful efforts in the 1950's to demonstrate the potential of the north facing corries of Cairngorm for skiing, by the early development of parts of the low ground of the Glenmore Forest Park for camping and caravanning and, probably of greater significance, by the superlative physical and natural resources of the area located conveniently alongside one of the main road and rail arteries leading from central Scotland through the Highlands.
- 1.5 Whatever the reasons, the result of this transformation was that in a relatively short time, an area which had been formerly associated mainly with traditional Highland holidays of fishing, walking, mountaineering and amateur nature studies became an all year holiday and conference centre for a great variety of activities, including some which had no direct relevance to the natural resources of the area - such as go-kart racing. Large new hotels at Coylumbridge and Aviemore were part of the visible evidence of this transformation, also: an indoor heated swimming pool, ice rinks, cinema, artificial ski slope, shopping centre, restaurants and conference halls at Aviemore; major road improvements, including a grand new bridge over the Spey, between Aviemore and the ski slopes nine miles away on Cairngorm; and much new catering, car parking and uplift machinery (chairlifts and tow-bars) on the mountain itself. The Glenmore campsite was considerably enlarged by the Forestry Commission and water sports promoted on the nearby Loch Morlich. Craft shops and other commercial outlets were established or expanded and, as

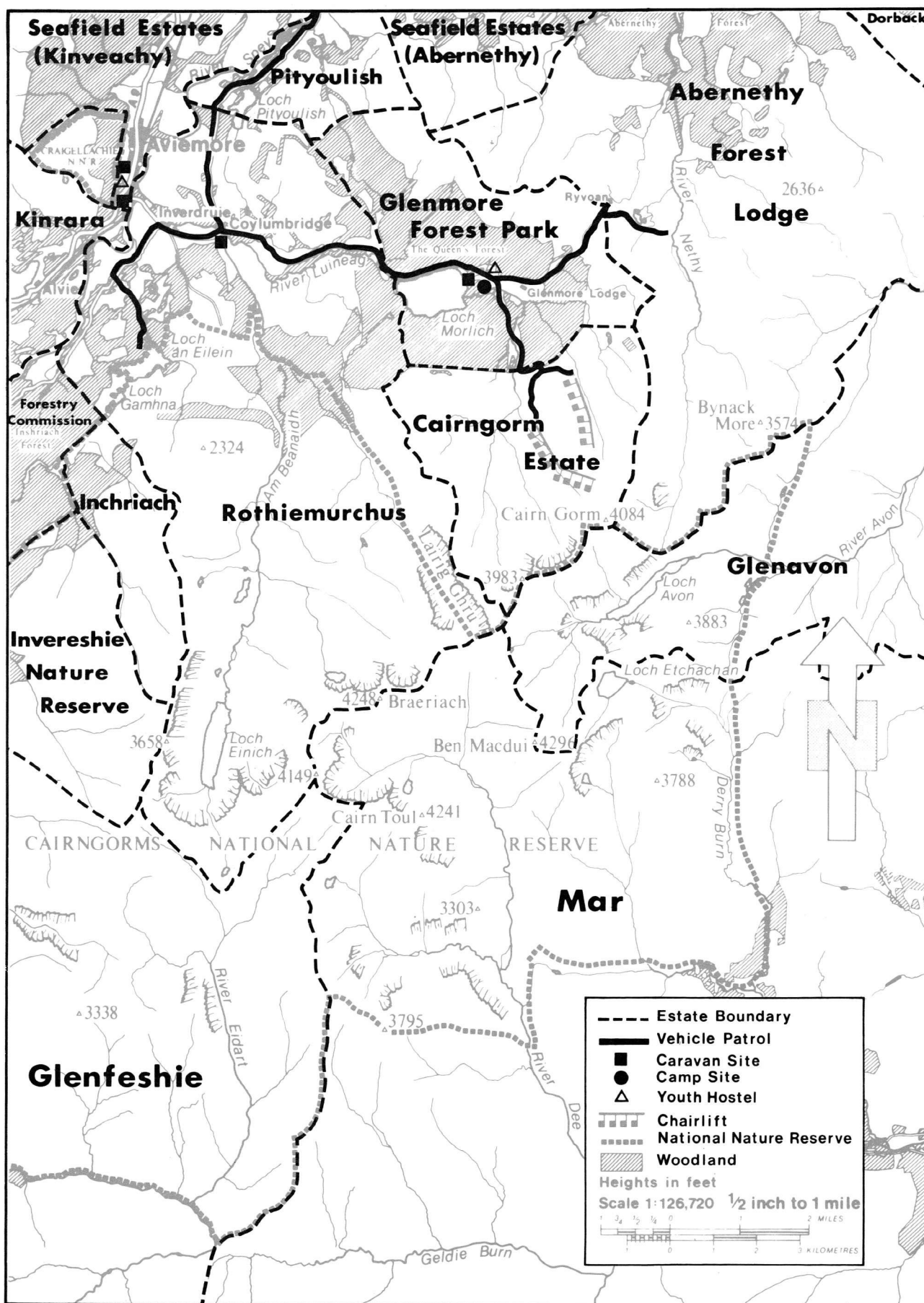
the first example of a very new development in Britain concerned with tourism, the Landmark Visitor Centre was opened at nearby Carrbridge in 1970.

1.6 Much of this economic impact - especially on older forms of tourist accommodation in Speyside - were examined in a report prepared for the Scottish Tourist Board and submitted to them in 1971 (11). It is less easy to pin down and systematically report upon some of the other changes which have occurred in the valley since the 1960's. Certain episodes, such as the return of the Ospreys to Loch Garten and some ecological effects have been well described (2), and more recently the Nature Conservancy Council has surveyed the movements of walkers on the Cairngorm National Nature Reserve (21). In the context of this final report on the Speyside Project, attention is drawn also to the three Interim Reports of the Speyside Project Officer, which describe a wide range of factors concerning the behaviour of visitors to Speyside (19).*

Well documented, reliable statistical information is lacking, however, about the spectrum of motivations which now bring visitors to the area. Presumably many people come because they have quite specific objectives and a clear idea as to how they may be fulfilled - say skiing or attending a conference - but significant numbers of visitors, especially young people, following in the wake of considerable tourist promotion appear to arrive with only the haziest idea of why they are there and having only some vague hope that if one travels north up the A9, one will eventually arrive at a swinging holiday scene. Clearly, part of the task of the total tourism/recreation industry, is to see to it that visitors are quickly provided with information about what they can do and given a choice to suit all reasonable tastes. And indeed, this in large measure is being done. But because the givers of this information are often not the providers and managers of the resources and facilities to which visitors are directed, all sorts of conflicts arise.

1.7 Having set the scene in a general way, the main landowning and management interests relevant to this report will now be identified (see map 2). From south to north, the private estates are: Glenfeshie, Rothiemurchus and Forest Lodge, with Glenavon Estate lying to the east.

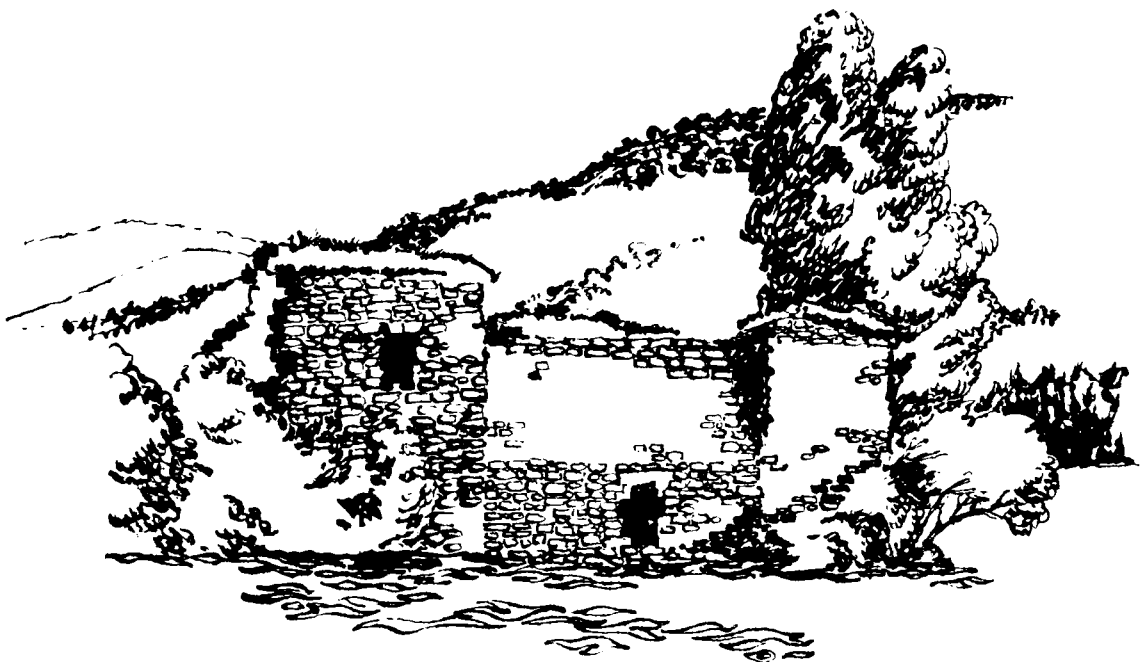
* Note: 150 copies of these Interim Reports were printed for distribution but demand was such that only a few copies remain. These can be obtained on loan from the Countryside Commission for Scotland.



Map 2. The Aviemore-Rothiemurchus-Glenmore area, showing intensive patrol areas and boundaries between estates.

Land owned by government departments includes the Forestry Commission's Glenmore Forest Park and forests to the south at Inshriach and Invereshie. Originally at Glenmore, the Forestry Commission also owned land above the 1000 foot contour extending to the summit of Cairngorm and in the first edition of the Ordnance Survey Tourist Map of the Cairngorms, this was shown as part of the Glenmore Forest Park. In 1972, however, the upper portion was transferred to the Highlands and Islands Development Board as their Cairngorm Estate and part of this ground is now leased to Cairngorm Sports Development Ltd. In addition, the Nature Conservancy Council owns land at Invereshie and Inshriach, the only parts of the 65,000 acre Cairngorm National Nature Reserve owned by the Council, the remainder being established under nature reserve agreements with the land-owners. Finally, Inverness County Council must be mentioned as owners of the public road network servicing the area, their interest - at the time of writing this report - extending as far as the large car park on Cairngorm.

- 1.8 In concluding this introductory chapter, it is important to remind readers that the period of change described above continued throughout the three years of the Project and changes continue to occur. A very few have been directly the result of the Project, but most were not - although often in some way relevant to it.



CHAPTER TWO

HOW THE PROJECT BEGAN

- 2.1 The original stimulus for action by the Commission came from Colonel J P Grant of Rothiemurchus who was then responsible for the management of Rothiemurchus Estate, which is owned by Trustees. (At the end of 1974, this responsibility was handed over to Colonel Grant's son, John P Grant the Younger of Rothiemurchus). The burden of Colonel Grant's appeal was that, because government had done so much to encourage visitors to Speyside by promoting tourist developments of the kinds mentioned in the previous chapter, government had a responsibility to ameliorate the effects of these developments on traditional land uses. Specifically, Colonel Grant was concerned about the impact of uncontrolled recreational activities on the agricultural, forestry, sporting and wildlife interests of the countryside, upon which much of its economic welfare depended.
- 2.2 Colonel Grant had no difficulty in providing evidence in support of the case that visitors could do damage. For example, in August 1969, within sight of two warning notices, a serious fire was started by picnickers where the Rothiemurchus forest verges with the busy public road from Aviemore to Cairngorm. Litter was also seen to be a major problem and on 4 September in that year, the Scotsman newspaper published a long letter from Colonel Grant in which he wrote that "to encourage an expansion of tourism in Scotland without taking the necessary measures to control it would be totally irresponsible and might lead to Scotland rapidly becoming the worst tourist slum in Europe". Certain measures were suggested in the letter, including a "Country Warden Service" and the hope expressed that "the Countryside Commission will spearhead the effort required to achieve them". Both in the early years of the Commission's existence and on many occasions since then, exactly similar arguments have been put forward by other landowners and their agents - especially in Highland Scotland. Indeed, in general terms, it can be said that one of the reasons advanced by the Scottish Landowners' Federation in support of the Countryside (Scotland) Act during its passage through parliament, was that it would provide a machinery and funds for helping to overcome the increasing problem of visitors to the countryside, as well as providing opportunities for enhancing public enjoyment of it.
- 2.3 In recognition of the injunction that it should have due regard "for the balanced economic and social development of the countryside", the Commission

took a strongly sympathetic line and it immediately began to explore how, within the terms of the Act, steps could be taken to improve the situation. This was done in conjunction with the Commission's Solicitor, the chief direction of this activity being to discover some way whereby a countryside ranger - a term preferred by the Commission to country warden - could be employed under the relevant sections of the Act, to patrol the areas subject to visitor use and, by suitable guidance, surveillance and admonishment, achieve a marked improvement in public behaviour. The correspondence on this was lengthy and complex and, in effect, negative. That is to say, no easily created device could be unearthed in the Countryside (Scotland) Act or any other Act that would allow either the local authority or the Countryside Commission for Scotland to employ a ranger without first obtaining some kind of legal interest in the ground over which the ranger would be required to operate. About a year later, it was established that the Commission could give grant to a private person to employ his own ranger - so long as this was done for positive public advantage - rather than solely to protect private interests. But even if this fact had been known at the time, it is doubtful if it would have offered a satisfactory solution to all parties.

2.4 The Commission recognised that two consequences flowed from this negative result. First, that a long-term solution would be partly dependent on agreement being sought between a public body empowered to employ rangers under the Act and a private landowner. Second, that if a short-term solution was to be found, some alternative to the direct employment of rangers must be discovered. Such an alternative appeared to exist in the Commission's powers to carry out development projects under Section 5 of the Act. This Section states that after consultation with such local authorities and other bodies as appear to the Commission to have an interest, it may prepare and submit to the Secretary of State for his approval "proposals with respect to any area for a development project or scheme designed to facilitate the enjoyment of the countryside or conserve or enhance its natural beauty or amenity, which -

- (i) in relation to that area involves the application of new or developed methods, concepts or techniques, and
- (ii) is designed to illustrate the appropriateness of such a project or scheme to that area or other areas of a similar nature or which present similar problems to that area."

2.5 Having examined this section of the Act, the Commission turned its attention to making a case to the Secretary of State for using Section 5 with the object of helping to resolve the growing problem of visitors to the Speyside area. In so doing, it was to be expected that they should have turned to the report of the Technical Group mentioned earlier (22). In its Summary and Conclusions (pages 70-78) one paragraph stood out as being directly relevant to the Speyside problem. It read "There is general agreement that, arising from the growth of tourism in the area, a Warden Service should be set up and be responsible both to guide persons seeking recreational activity in all parts of the area and to forestall possible conflicts between new and existing interests. The service should be independent of sectional interests and could be set up and governed by the anticipated Countryside Commission for Scotland." In the final chapter of this report on the Speyside Project, this conclusion of the Technical Group is discussed in some detail. For the time being, suffice it to say that it was precisely the kind of authoritative backing which the Commission was looking for in making a case to the Secretary of State.

2.6 The substance of this case is quoted as follows:

"THE COUNTRYSIDE (SCOTLAND) ACT 1967

"A Proposal by the Countryside Commission for Scotland for a Development Project in the Cairngorm Area of the Eastern Highlands of Scotland.

"(i) There are today, in several areas of the Scottish Countryside (such as the Cairngorms, Loch Lomond, Glen Coe, Glen Nevis and Torridon) an increasing variety of problems associated with the generation of ever larger numbers of visitors to the countryside. In the last decade, these problems have been widely described in journals and official publications and have formed the main theme of several symposia. Broadly speaking, solutions to these problems involve the following five elements:

- (a) Provision of constructed facilities (countryside paraphernalia) ranging from simple items such as litter bins and picnic sites to large capital intensive structures such as ski tows and caravan sites.
- (b) Zoning of visitor activity in space, time and type of activity and measures to canalize visitors to selected routes.
- (c) Control of total numbers of visitors by various measures, a solution dependent on acceptance by management that the countryside - like a theatre - can be full.

- (d) Improvement of visitor behaviour by a variety of means.
- (e) Provision of alternative facilities in other areas of the countryside.

"(ii) Of the several areas in Scotland where solutions to these problems need to be found and acted upon, the Cairngorm Area ranks among the highest. Here there are substantial national, local authority and private interests in the continuing development of tourist potential and the safe-guarding of the countryside heritage. Recognising this, the Scottish Development Department and the County Planning Authorities of seven Counties agreed in 1962 to form a Technical Group to prepare a report which was published in 1967. In the Foreword, the Secretary of State for Scotland noted that "it is fitting that this report has become available at a time when we are about to set up a Scottish Countryside Commission."

"(iii) The Countryside Commission for Scotland has now been in existence for two years and in that time it has made some progress as a unifying element in countryside planning and in the establishment of sound procedures for advising the Secretary of State on programmes of countryside expenditure, grant aided by the Exchequer. It has also begun to initiate studies leading to action in specific areas. Where recommendations for action based on recently completed comprehensive surveys exist already, further surveys are largely unnecessary and it is appropriate that the Commission should identify and initiate action on those recommendations most suited to its role.

"(iv) In the summary and conclusions of the Cairngorm Area Report (pp 70-78) one item stands out as being primarily for action by the Commission. Para 7.34 states: (Here followed the two sentences quoted in 2.5 above).

"This conclusion is supported in greater detail by paras 5.28-31 of the report where it is stressed that the independent new service should be fully integrated with services provided by existing bodies.

"(v) As a result of the growing pressures within the Cairngorm Area, and particularly in the Rothiemurchus-Glenmore Corridor, during the summer of 1969, the Commission made a preliminary study of the situation and examined their powers in relation to the Countryside (Scotland) Act 1967. As a result, the Commission concluded that

the best course open to them is, with the other authorities concerned, to consider treatment of the problem under Section 5 of the Act. (The statement then summarised Section 5, quoted in 2.4 above).

- "(vi) An integrated warden service for the Cairngorm Area might fall properly into the range of possible provisions which could be explored under Section 5. As stated in the Cairngorm Area Report, intensity of visitor activity can cause conflict with agricultural, forestry, sporting and conservation interests and there is a need to reconcile the requirements of visitors to the area with these interests. Part of the reconciliation process involves improvement and control of visitor behaviour (para (i) (d) above), a task which cannot be met wholly by the staff of existing public bodies and private estates already operating in the area. This is a pattern met in many parts of the Scottish countryside and the creation of an integrated warden service in the Cairngorms would be a new departure in countryside provision in Scotland and its application would be relevant to other areas where similar problems exist.
- "(vii) Integration of existing services could not, however, be achieved instantaneously. It is a common factor of all forms of integration that the integrating machinery and personalities must be introduced with reasonable regard for existing procedures. The Countryside Commission for Scotland therefore wish to consult with the authorities concerned about the possibility of a project under Section 5 of the Act in the Cairngorm Area in a limited manner for an experimental period of two to three years. This would involve appointing a Project Officer, to be based at or near Aviemore. The Commission prefer the term Ranger to that of Warden and one of the Project Officer's tasks would be to examine how an integrated Ranger Service could be initiated in an area to be defined (eg Strath Spey from Kincaig to Grantown) with special reference to visitor pressure within areas along the eastern flanks of Strath Spey.
- "(viii) In the first year of appointment the Project Officer would require to obtain first hand experience of problems that have long been faced by existing proprietors and their agents. For this reason, in the first season, the Commission's Officer would have the following specific duties.

- (a) To patrol within an area to be arranged, and with particular reference to the Glenmore road from Aviemore to the Cairngorm car parks and from Coylumbridge to Loch an Eilein.
- (b) To make contact with visitors, particularly in laybys and along roadside verges, and to impress on them the importance of care in the countryside in relation to litter, fires and pollution of water.
- (c) To help visitors towards a better understanding of the area and thus to add to their enjoyment and respect for the countryside.
- (d) To carry out any specific field work and surveys of visitor activities and attitudes as required by the Commission, and to observe and report on visitor behaviour in a systematic manner.
- (e) To maintain close liaison with all public bodies and private landowners on the ground, and in local emergencies to take such action as necessary with other authorities concerned.

The Project Officer will be directly responsible to (staff) in the Commission's headquarters at Perth."

2.7 In actual fact, the full text of this statement was not submitted to the Secretary of State until agreement had been given in principle by the Scottish Development Department, who are directly responsible for oversight of the Commission's work. This agreement was given in February 1970 to proceed with the idea of a Section 5 scheme "for a suitable experimental period". The Department were also of the opinion that the full burden of what was proposed should not be seen to be falling on the Commission alone, and that both the private estates and the local authorities should be seen to be playing their part, in one way or another. This agreement in principle led to work being put in hand to prepare the statement quoted in 2.6, thereafter submitted formally to the Department on 3 April. Two weeks later, similar formal letters were sent to Inverness County Council, the Forestry Commission, the Nature Conservancy (now the Nature Conservancy Council), and the Highlands and Islands Development Board. On 22 April, the Planning Committee of the County Council was reported in the press as having welcomed the Commission's proposal. However, of these four bodies, only the Highland Board subsequently wrote back to the Commission formally recording its approval of the scheme.

2.8 This lack of written approval from three bodies having a direct interest in the scheme, may have been partly the result of oversight (although not in the

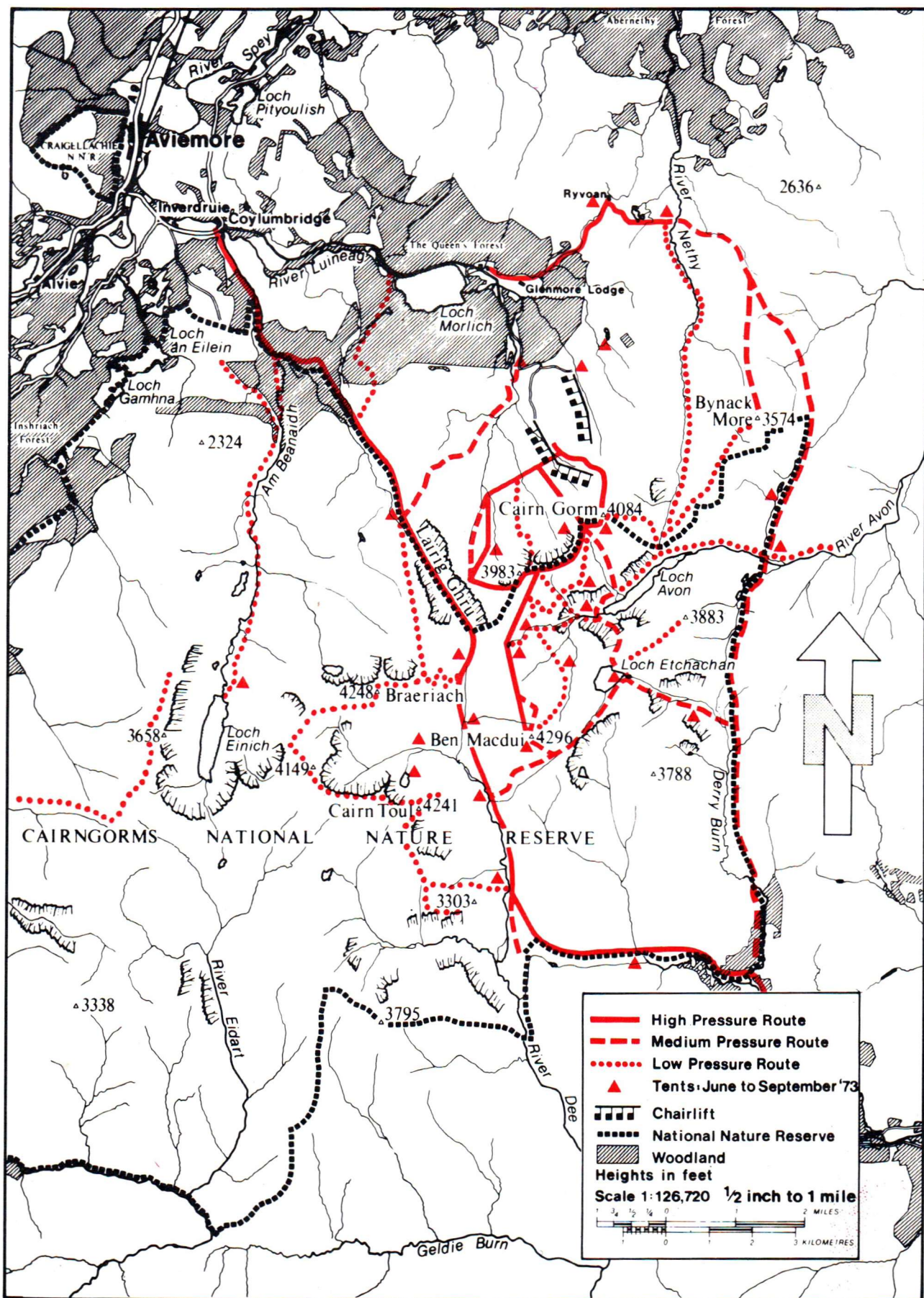
case of Nature Conservancy because they wrote in August acknowledging that their formal views had yet to be given) or a convenient procedure for not committing themselves one way or another. This suggestion is made because, on the one hand, both the Nature Conservancy and Forestry Commission already employed people performing ranger-type duties over their areas of interest, and thus may well have been concerned as to what "integration of existing services" actually meant in terms of the sovereignty of separate statutory bodies. On the other hand, the County Council employed no-one in this capacity but perhaps could foresee what was likely to be expected of them, in the way of providing a ranger service themselves, once the demonstration project of the Countryside Commission had come to an end. At any rate, at least the required consultations had been carried out with "such local authorities and other bodies as appeared to have an interest" (see 2.4 above) and in June 1970, the SDD gave formal approval for the scheme. In so doing, the Department entered the following points:

"In seeking approval to the appointment of the Project Officer we referred to the possibility that in the longer term an integrated Warden Service in the Cairngorms might be developed though it is of course clearly understood that the present proposal is entirely without prejudice to a decision on that. If things did develop in that direction however we should need to look very closely at the statutory position of the Countryside Commission not having powers to appoint rangers as such with enforcement powers and the extent to which local authorities should be expected to exercise the powers they have got."

CHAPTER THREE

SUMMARY OF MAIN EVENTS

- 3.1 In July 1970, the post of Project Officer was advertised in the national press, interviews conducted and the appointment offered to Mr M A Payne, a journalist/writer experienced in the communications media, with a strong interest in mountaineering and countryside affairs. Notwithstanding the significance of the project for Speyside, no local authority housing could be provided and eventually Mr Payne had to find his own accommodation at Cromdale, some 15 miles from Aviemore. It also proved impossible to secure a share of any centrally located office base, and this too had to be in the Cromdale house. One organisation approached felt that a shared office could result in a blurring of images.
- 3.2 The Project Officer took up his new post in December 1970 and, after a preliminary round of introductions to persons or bodies having some interest in the Project, he continued to familiarise himself with the area until the following spring, when regular patrols commenced. During this familiarisation period, the Project Officer attended the annual mountain survival course run by the Scottish Sports Council at Glenmore Lodge and was enrolled as a member of the Cairngorm Mountain Rescue Team. He also presented reports at two-weekly intervals to the Commission's headquarters and, after April 1971, continued to present confidential monthly reports to Perth throughout the three years of the Project. At a later stage, copies were sent also to the County Planning Officer for information.
- 3.3 During the six-month period April to September, in each of the three years 1971 to 1973, the Project Officer carried out regular patrols of certain agreed areas (see map 2). In the first year he was supported by temporary student assistants; later a full time Assistant Project Officer was recruited. In carrying out patrols, project staff were fulfilling a duty specified in para (viii) of the case for the Project. In more general terms, the Project staff had two kinds of tasks to perform. On the one hand, they had to act as if they were actually employed as countryside rangers and, on the other, they had to collect information about the many factors of the area relevant to the effective performance of such a service, if it were to be run on a permanent basis. (See map 3). In order to give visible identity to the demonstration, Project staff were provided with Land Rovers carrying appropriate signs and equipment (fig 1).



Map 3. Popular walking routes and camping areas in the high Cairngorms
Relative pressures shown were obtained from two eight-week surveys
carried out by Mrs M Porter during the Project.

- 3.4 Before each six-month patrol period commenced, a meeting was convened by the Commission, at which representatives of bodies in the private and public sectors were informed about the progress of the Project and invited to make observations. These meetings took place in hotels in Aviemore. Originally it was the intention of the Commission that attendance would be restricted to bodies having a land managing responsibility, relevant to a permanent ranger service. In practice, people representing a somewhat wider range of interests turned up at later meetings, in the hope, perhaps, of hearing how the Commission proposed to solve problems much broader than those covered by the objectives of the Speyside Project. This resulted, on occasion, in criticisms being levelled at the Commission for failing to do what it in fact had never set out to do - nor for which it had powers.
- 3.5 At the end of each year, the Project Officer drafted an interim report, formally presented to the Commission at one of their early meetings in the following year. Although subject to editing by headquarter's staff, it was recognised that these reports were essentially a summary of information gathered by the Project Officer and his staff and an expression of his opinions. What the Commission did was to approve each report for publication and to agree to such specific proposals for action in the following year, as were acceptable within the original terms of the Project. Some are explained in the next chapter; the point to note here is that these proposals all pertained to specific operational matters (such as additional staff) and not to any fundamental change in the direction of the Project. As to the form of the Project Officer's three interim reports, it must be said that this gave rise to comment in some quarters because it was considered unusual for a statutory body to issue reports by individuals without some indication (the reports carried no Foreword or bound-in cover note from Commission headquarters) as to their status in the eyes of the Commission. Others, however, welcomed the forthright style of reporting adopted by the Project Officer and, on balance, the Commission felt that this unusual procedure had more to commend it than it had against.
- 3.6 Broadly, therefore, this was the shape of each year of the Project: an intensive six-month period of patrols and information gathering, followed by a less intensive period for reporting, annual leave and preparation for the following season's work. The chronology of significant events is given in Appendix 1.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS : THE WORK OF THREE YEARS

- 4.1 This chapter summarises the main outcome of each year's work as presented in the Project Officer's interim reports and picks out such conclusions and recommendations as are required to explain the way in which work proceeded in each succeeding year.

The First Year

- 4.2 The first interim report began with an introduction explaining that a ranger service had two main objects: the protection of countryside used by incoming visitors and the protection of visitors in their use and enjoyment of it. A consequence of this was that the service must look two ways: on the one hand to the interests of the occupying managerial group or groups and on the other to the infinitely varied faces and demands of the visiting public. The introduction also observed that visitor performance is conditioned by environment: not just by the natural environment but also by the built infrastructure of roads, laybys, footpaths and litter bins. In this way, in the opening pages of the first interim report, an important factor relevant to an effective ranger service was identified: that it must operate within a total visitor management framework in which the employing authority has some say. The introduction ended with the following statement:

"In Speyside various forms of ranger service have existed for many decades, others have been introduced more recently. Thus the Speyside Project, following the recommendations of the Cairngorm area report, has had to explore how to integrate a new service with what exists already. But integration leading to co-operation should not be pursued in a hurry and therefore, although this first year's report concludes on a note of optimism, detailed proposals for a machinery of integration must await a further year's experience."

- 4.3 The rest of the report showed how, in a short time, the Project Officer had built up considerable personal and official liaison, including becoming invited onto a number of local committees all concerned in some way with visitor reception and tourism. Effective liaison included the installation of short-wave radio in his Land Rover, linked to Forestry Commission and police mountain rescue facilities, in itself a step of some magnitude and a demonstration of co-operation. The report summarised the then existing manpower situation relevant to visitor reception: in the Forestry

Commission, Nature Conservancy, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Cairngorm Sports Development Ltd and Rothiemurchus Estate. The conclusion was that all staff were already hard pressed and that there was little likelihood of drawing on existing staff for participation in full-time ranger duties. Other parts of the report summarised some of the main problems, as seen by the Project Officer, including litter, fire prevention, camping/caravanning, car parking, mountain safety and access.

4.4 Finally, the report set forth options for the Commission's consideration as to how the second year of the project should proceed. These were:-

- (i) that the project should continue unchanged;
- (ii) that the emphasis should shift from the low ground of the Aviemore/Coylumbridge corridor to visitor management problems on the mountain;
- (iii) that both the foregoing objectives should be aimed for, by the appointment of a ranger to work closely with the Project Officer, thus enabling the latter to extend his liaison activities.

The report ended with a discussion of priorities for action. For example, under the heading of access agreements, it recommended:

"That the access agreement currently being negotiated by the Inverness-shire County Planning Authority with the proprietor of Rothiemurchus Estate be vigorously pursued with a view to an agreement being in experimental operation by the summer of 1972: /and that/ consideration should be given to negotiating agreements for adjoining lands as and when possible with the long-term aim of rationalising the whole Cairngorm area for visitor access and management."

4.5 On 13 April 1972, the second Aviemore meeting took place, 22 persons being present representing: the three private estates of Glen Feshie, Rothiemurchus and Seafieid; three central government bodies: the Highlands and Islands Development Board, Nature Conservancy and Forestry Commission; two local authorities: Inverness County Council and Badenoch District Council; and, in addition to the Countryside Commission for Scotland, two other bodies concerned with visitor reception: the Spey Valley Tourist Organisation and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. The note of the meeting records four issues as being of particular importance. These were: (i) the need for updating of statutory and other forms of plans for the Cairngorm/Speyside Area, (ii) the need for a co-ordinated visitor management system,

(iii) positive action on particular matters such as access agreements and camp sites, and (iv) further exploration of what an integrated ranger service actually meant in practice. In due course, some of these matters have progressed. Towards the end of 1974, Inverness County Council submitted Amendment No 13 to their County Development Plan (covering the Cairngorm area) to the Secretary of State for his approval and the Forestry Commission (North Conservancy) prepared a recreation plan for the Conservancy which includes a section on the Forest Park. The latter, however, is an internal document not published for general reference, as was also a report on nature conservation in Speyside, prepared by the Nature Conservancy as an advice note to the County Council in the preparation of their Development Plan Amendment. A full prospectus for nature conservation for the Cairngorm area (to include the whole of the area covered by the Technical Group (22) and not just the National Nature Reserve), which was announced at the 1972 meeting as being in preparation, has yet to be published. The need for this document is fully recognised, particularly so as to give weight to a point made by a spokesman of the Conservancy at that meeting: that the interests of the Cairngorm area are more than simply those relating to visitor reception.

- 4.6 The case for a co-ordinated visitor management system was presented in the wider context of the need for a management plan for the whole area, and the Commission was somewhat criticised at the end of the meeting for appearing to attach less urgency to this matter than had been recognised in 1967, when the Technical Group's report was published. Indeed it was suggested that by attempting to tackle the one particular matter of an overall ranger service, the Commission was at fault for not having tried to resolve the total complex of Cairngorm visitor management problems. The position was and still is that the Countryside Commission's enabling Act did not place it at centre in the way expected, a reply more readily given than accepted.
- 4.7 As to an overall ranger service, the County Council's representative saw responsibility for this lying with the Countryside Commission for Scotland and the suggestion was made that there should be a common uniform (or some other common form of identification) even if there could not be one common employer, with all members of the service working within the framework of the Countryside (Scotland) Act. It was as a result of this suggestion that the idea emerged of a common ranger badge, to be issued for a trial period to all persons employing people in ranger-type activities



Fig 1 Demonstrating the value of a ranger service in a busy tourist area was greatly aided by the use of appropriately-marked vehicles. This Land-Rover was used as a mobile countryside information centre and office, as well as for patrols, fire-fighting and mountain rescue operations.



Fig 2 The Cairngorm Clean-Up Campaigns drew attention to mountain litter problems in a variety of ways. This 'cairn' of litter at Cairngorm car-park brought the message home to countless visitors.

and operating over land to which the public had access within each of the employing bodies' areas of responsibility. The suggestion was made that such a badge could simply state "Countryside Ranger Service" but would not carry the name or symbol of any particular organisation, and it was agreed that the Commission should consult with persons and bodies who might be willing to use the suggested badge.

The Second Year

4.8 The Project Officer's second interim report was submitted to the Commission at their December 1972 meeting. It summarised the multiplicity of activities tackled during the year, as well as expanding and supplementing on various matters described in the final report. As a follow-up to recommendations made in that report and approved by the Commission, an Assistant Project Officer was recruited during the second year and greater emphasis given to mountain visitor management problems; also the trial litter drive of the first year was repeated on a much fuller scale and given considerable publicity (Fig 2), and patrols extended to a larger area of Speyside. It should be noted, however, that the particular recommendation for a full-time ranger was not implemented, the Scottish Development Department having given approval to an Assistant Project Officer only, to be employed on a short-term contract.

4.9 In the final chapter, the report reiterated all the arguments for an integrated Cairngorm ranger service and (on pp 24-26) set out options for the Commission's consideration as to how this might be achieved. These were:-

- "(a) that the service be set up and governed by the Countryside Commission for Scotland;
- (b) that it be demonstrated by the Countryside Commission for Scotland for a limited period and then be inherited by the local - or regional - authority;
- (c) that existing agencies themselves combine to create the service;
- (d) a combination of (a) and (c)."

The report went on to suggest that there was a fifth option - that the project be terminated - but that "this would probably be dismissed as unrealistic." As this Final Report shows later there was value in taking the Project through to its full term of three years. At the time, however, the Commission was so impressed by the success of the Project Officer's

activities (being so energetically pursued within the relative freedom of an experimental project) that they concurred with the Project Officer's preference for (d). This was expanded in his report, under the heading of "A Compromise Solution", as follows:

"A viable compromise could perhaps be achieved by the Countryside Commission maintaining a small nucleus (of Rangers) in the area with a specific responsibility for co-ordinating all services related to visitor reception; a nucleus which would be interdependent with other agencies, including local authority services related to access areas but, one would hope, also operating outwith them; this nucleus, resembling the present scale of Commission representation in the area, could involve itself in matters of engaging seasonal assistants or voluntary rangers, promoting liaison and co-operative systems. Indeed it would need to have a wide-ranging brief for the whole area.

"This proposal would be an improvement on the present situation, with an application to other areas of Scotland subject to similar recreational pressures, and it would relieve local authorities of responsibility for providing anything other than a standard ranger service with fewer numbers, related to access and other areas possessing grant-aided provisions under the Act. The task of identifying management objectives and the long-term task of developing and co-ordinating a ranger service framework in the field might be considered by a representative committee of member bodies. This still leaves open the possibilities of developing a national countryside ranger service with standardised training, image, conditions of service and salary structure."

For the most part, the rest of the report developed how this broad concept could work out in practice, even down to such details as numbers of grades or rangers required and their duties.

- 4.10 In endorsing the report for publication, the Commission concluded that the results of the first two years of the Project were sufficient to make it clear that there would be a vital role to be filled in co-ordinating and leading the various ranger and warden services in the area, once the third year of the Project was completed in the autumn of 1973. Notwithstanding that the County Council might yet be enabled to operate a ranger service over land subject to an access agreement, the Commission recognised that this would be limited to serving a relatively small part of the whole

Speyside area only and that, as a consequence, the local authority would not be able to undertake the wide co-ordinating role at present provided by the Commission's Project staff. For this reason, the Commission agreed that it should now seek Government approval to the continuance of the ranger element of the Project as a permanent contribution to visitor management in Speyside. The Commission also saw advantage in extending this type of service into other areas already under pressure or likely to come under such pressure in future.

- 4.11 At that Commission meeting also, the Assessor from the Nature Conservancy (it had yet to be reconstituted as the Nature Conservancy Council) stated that his organisation was prepared to support the concept of an integrated ranger service in principle and would do everything possible to support the Commission's proposals. This sympathetic attitude is a reminder of how differently matters could be viewed according to time and place. For example, during the whole of 1972, no trial introduction of a common ranger badge took place; a trial which - had it occurred - might have that much the sooner demonstrated what was meant by supporting "the concept of an integrated ranger service in principle." That there were difficulties was clearly implied in the Project Officer's second report, where it is stated: "There have been several problems regarding the apparently simple matter of introducing such a badge but broad agreement has now been reached, though matters of type and design are still cause for discussion."

Even so, the Project Officer continued with plans to introduce the badge in 1973 for an initial period of three months.

The Third Year

- 4.12 Understandably, as a consequence of the Commission's broad acceptance of his proposals for a permanent ranger service, the Project Officer began his third year with a strong sense of support for the direction in which the project was moving. This support was reaffirmed by some of those present at the third Aviemore meeting on 6 April 1973, attended by 33 people, when expressions of opinion were voiced from a local authority standpoint as to the desirability of a national ranger service, run by the Countryside Commission for Scotland. Once again, however, the meeting not only served its objectives as seen by the Commission (to provide a forum for discussion about the progress of the Project) but it also provided an opportunity for wider issues to be raised. One such was concern about the increasing

number of statutory bodies with which landowners were required to liaise respecting different aspects of estate management and several speakers urged that the Commission should be taking a more central role in trying to reconcile interests. The circulated note of the meeting records the reply given by a spokesman for the Commission "that the Commission was aware of these problems and had recently been discussing them at senior staff level with the Nature Conservancy." He emphasised that there were no quick solutions because the statutory responsibilities of certain organisations overlapped. The Project Officer's proposal for a local Management Committee was one possible solution at a local level, although some reservation was expressed from the floor on this.

- 4.13 Nevertheless, despite this enthusiasm for the practical advantages being achieved in Speyside by the Project (the second major litter campaign was an even bigger success in collaborative action than the first), serious doubts began to be recognised by the Commission as to whether it had the powers to establish and run a ranger service of the kind recommended by the Project Officer. Some of these doubts had been voiced at the start of the Project and an explanation is required in this Final Report as to why they appeared to have been overlooked. For the present, however, it is preferable if this crucial question be set to one side, so as to summarise certain other matters having a bearing on the Project.
- 4.14 One such was the Rothiemurchus Access Agreement, the chronology of significant events in its history being given in Appendix 2. Access agreements are arrangements provided for under Part II of the Countryside (Scotland) Act 1967 whereby a local planning authority may make agreements with the purpose of enabling the public to have access for open-air recreation. (For further details, readers are referred to the Countryside Commission for Scotland's Information Sheet No 2, listed in the bibliography). Inverness County Council's interest in making such an agreement was first directed to a location in the western part of the county and, this proposal having failed, a potentially more fruitful location was suggested in the Cairngorms, on ground to the west of the Lairig Ghru, on Rothiemurchus Estate. However, notwithstanding two-and-a-half years of fairly concentrated effort by the estate and County Council - in which the Commission did its best to give objective help to both parties - negotiations eventually came to a halt without the agreement having been signed. This information was received with regret, in that it continued the situation of the County Council not having a sufficient legal interest in the ground as to empower them to employ

a ranger in Speyside.

4.15 Why negotiations ceased and whether they may yet be re-opened, as the County Council recorded they were still willing to do in October 1973, is another story. Suffice it to say that - as explained in the Commission's Fifth and Sixth Annual Reports - there are several reasons as to why access arrangements available by means of existing legislation appear insufficiently attractive for Scottish mountain situations. First, there is still much concern by proprietors that the terms of access agreements will not adequately compensate them for allowing the public onto their land as of right, rather than as a privilege. Second, it appears that local authorities are concerned that the burden of managing access agreements will involve them in an extended and potentially extending responsibility, involving shared responsibility for public behaviour related to rural resource management problems over which they have no direct control. Third, in the present continuing climate of de facto access over much mountainous land in Scotland, mountaineers and walkers may construe access agreements on land to which they have long had access, as a restriction rather than an extension of their rights or privileges to use mountainous open country. Notwithstanding these points, the Commission is still determined to go on trying to find situations where access agreements to mountainous situations may be successfully created.

4.16 Returning to the Speyside Project, another matter was that of the common ranger badge. In the words of the Project Officer (third interim report, page 3):

"The Commission's experimental introduction of a common ranger badge for use by public and private agencies concerned with the reception of the public took place between June and September this year. It is too soon to arrive at final conclusions on the success or failure of the scheme as written reports have still to be submitted by some of the participating agencies at the time of writing.

"Seafield Estate report that staff found the badge valuable as a means of identity for the public and that it lent authority to its wearer. Similarly, the Forestry Commission staff at Glenmore Forest Park found the badge useful as a standardised means of identifying sources of countryside information. The Nature Conservancy Council's seasonal staff had some reservations about the badge's value - except in special cases such as the July visitor survey when a common insignia was useful - and they also felt the colour and design of the plastic badge was of poor quality."

Indeed, the quality of the badge (in blue, on white plastic) might explain the inconclusive results of its trial use. But perhaps a deeper reason touches on the whole question of the meaning of an integrated ranger service and the independent sovereignty of separate statutory organisations.

Without a firm direction, arrived at jointly by agreement between the governing bodies of the two major statutory bodies already employing staff carrying out ranger-type duties, it is possible that no really effective test of the value of a common form of identification could be achieved. And, as some persons partly employed in ranger-type duties had for long eschewed wearing any kind of formal identification on their person, it was not surprising that for them the proffered test badge went unused.

4.17 A third matter had no direct connection with the Speyside Project although it had much to do with the way in which the Countryside Commission for Scotland saw its place in countryside affairs. Ever since 1971, when the Commission had given evidence to the Parliamentary Select Committee on Land Use Resources in Scotland, it had been debating the important question of a parks system for Scotland. This thinking had led initially to the possibility that the Commission might in some way act at centre in setting up national parks, a proposition which fitted acceptably with the idea that the Commission might also set up and run a national ranger service. But, after further reflection and deeper examination of all the issues, the Commission agreed to recommend to the Secretary of State a park system for Scotland in which the new regional authorities should be seen as having prime responsibility for the larger units of the system. This recommendation is now the subject of a published report (13); what is not discussed therein is that the change in Commission thinking about national parks came to embrace also a change in its attitude to the setting up of a national ranger service.

4.18 Other matters may seem less important, considered individually and in retrospect. Nevertheless, taken together, they added significantly to the accumulating weight of opinion that the Project should be terminated. One was the future of the Project Staff. Another was that if the Project Officer was to develop a new post in the Commission concerned also with ranger services, then it was essential that his geographical experience be widened substantially beyond the particular situation of Speyside. A third factor is much less easy to pin down but it related to a growing concern that one day, the free ranging status of the Project Officer, could have particular implications. In 3.5 (above), it has already been noted that the form of the Project Officer's reports had not passed without comment and, as each month's

and year's reports were received, the Commission came to recognise both the potential problems - as well the evident strengths - of continuing with the existing arrangement. Not least this was because the Project Officer could not always be apprised of how thinking on substantive issues was developing in the Commission's headquarters, while yet continuing to be placed in a position which could require immediate comment. And so, as a consequence of much re-thinking, a review of the Project was commenced, which ultimately led to a decision to bring it to a close.

The Three Years : Summary

- 4.19 In concluding this account, it is appropriate to summarise major activities under three heads: fact-finding, ranger duties and liaison. Under the first head, the Project staff recorded much information on movements of vehicles and people on foot, and about their demands for information. For example, sample traffic counts were made on the Aviemore-Coylumbridge road, up to 1,000 vehicle movements per day being recorded during the main visitor season. Numbers of cars parking were also sampled on this road and on the road to Loch an Eilean, where annual totals of about 50,000 visitors were estimated for the Loch an Eilean area. Visitor use of the chairlift in summer was reported upon, as well as numbers of people moving towards the summit of Cairngorm from the top station of the chairlift. Such numbers, in one day, could be over 1,100 of which 85% might reach the summit. Records of visitor movements on the summit plateau were recorded in 1972 and 1973 by Project staff who, in addition, helped with the 1973 visitor survey of the Cairngorm National Nature Reserve (21), organised by the Nature Conservancy Council. Information on visitor use of Speyside facilities such as counter enquiries at the Spey Valley Tourist Organisation's information offices recorded a nearly three-fold increase to 118,000 enquiries in the three years to 1974. Hotel and camp site bookings, as well as numbers of visitors to the Loch Garten osprey reserve, were also reported upon so as to be informed about visitor numbers in Spey Valley, relevant to a ranger service.
- 4.20 Under the heading of ranger duties, the reports summarised tasks undertaken as part of regular patrolling operations, such as communicating with visitors, litter clearance and maintenance of mountain bothies. Collaboration with volunteer working parties, for example with groups carrying out repairs to the Lairig Ghru, was also seen as part of ranger duties, as well as running guided walks on a trial basis and collaborating in the provision of a daily weather forecasting service for walkers and climbers, established in co-operation with the Scottish Meteorological Office and Glenmore Lodge.



Fig 3 On sunny weekends, over 1500 visitors have been spot-counted on the beach at Loch Morlich in the Glenmore Forest Park. Severe erosion problems have been evident in recent years.



Fig 4 Tourist ski developments in mountain areas have an inevitable impact on landscape. A successful reseeding programme has been carried out by Cairngorm Sports Development Ltd to repair damage caused by earlier works.

Mountain rescue was a further extension of ranger duties, all Project staff being members of the Cairngorm Mountain Rescue Team.

- 4.21 Liaison and the development of co-operative activities between different agencies on Speyside became an increasing part of the Project Officer's work as the project progressed and the Project Officer himself was released from regular patrol duties by support staff. Towards the end of the three year period of the Project, the Project Officer was able to record that he had become involved, as a full member, assessor or observer, on twelve committees and other active groups in Speyside. On one of these, the Speyside Wildlife Group, the Project Officer acted as Chairman. The "Cairngorm clean-up campaigns" were part of the business of developing co-operation amongst different agencies and a valuable way of involving many sections of the community, including visitors to Speyside. They contributed to an improvement of scavenging services generally in Speyside and strengthened links between Project staff and the District Council. The Project Officer was also able to help stimulate work by the District Council on the recording of rights of way, the provision and maintenance of a good footpath system being seen as a valuable tool in visitor management in Speyside.



Fig 5 Car-borne visitors present management problems at Loch Morlich: at peak periods roadside parking on the busy ski road causes congestion and the risk of accidents to walkers, especially children.



Fig 6 The introduction of a trial common ranger/information badge in 1973 was a partial success. It provided an easily-identified source of information for visitors to Speyside. Photograph shows Forestry Commission Information Officer taking visitors on a guided walk in Glenmore Forest Park.

Fig 7

Even the remoter areas, such as the summit of Ben Macdhui (4296 ft), Britain's second highest mountain, were affected by the actions of thoughtless visitors. Mrs Porter is clearing away broken glass, during the 1973 Clean-Up Campaign.



Fig 8 Communications were of vital importance throughout the Project, whether with visitors in large numbers, or advising solitary walkers on safe routes in the Cairngorms. The Project Officer is accompanying a young visitor through the Lairig Ghru.

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 As an introduction to this chapter, it may be helpful to recapitulate the objects of the Speyside Project. These were to stimulate over a trial period, a countryside ranger service in a part of Highland Scotland subject to intensive recreation use, in such a way as to substantiate the need for the service to be set up on a permanent basis, and to demonstrate how this could be done. Thus, in simple terms, the Project staff had two kinds of tasks to perform. On the one hand, they had to act as if they were actually employed as countryside rangers and, on the other, they had to collect information about the many factors of the area relevant to the effective performance of a ranger service. In addition, for reasons given in 2.5, a somewhat special extra function came to be associated with the particular kind of ranger service demonstrated by the Speyside Project. This extra function was to explore how a new and permanent service might be able to co-ordinate and supplement existing ranger-type activities, in such a way as to provide a better overall service to the benefit of everyone.
- 5.2 These three sets of duties, the Project Officer - first alone and then with a full-time assistant supplemented by additional seasonal staff - discharged as fully as any person could have done. Favourable comments received as a result of soliciting formal observations from other bodies are summarised as follows:
- A local liaison communication system developed between our staff and your personnel to co-ordinate and assist caravan and camping visitors in the peak summer months, to find alternative sites when their preferred site or camp was fully occupied. This service helped to save visitors travelling time and frustration, during the periods when such accommodation is scarce and difficult to find.
 - The regional information service, designated by the lapel badge, (fig 6) not only served to focus visitor enquiries on knowledgeable individuals, but also provided a channel for communication between several agencies equipped to provide a wide range of recreational facilities in the region.
 - The mobility of the Project personnel, in radio communication with our staff, was an additional aid in fire prevention, notification of trespass, damage and other unauthorised acts.
 - The Project has been effectively utilised in identifying and producing

management prescriptions for problems of a particular area.

- The Project Officer's duties, as detailed in the first report, are capable of a very wide interpretation and it is this wide interpretation that has given the Project its real value.
- The Project Officer has been of great value to the area in general, increasing overall contact between organisations and individuals. The roving remit, not limited to a specific patch of ground, has provided a good channel for intercommunication. Success in this field is due to the forceful and dynamic personality of the Project Officer in an immensely difficult job.
- The interim reports have been excellent stimuli to all others in the area. The forthright reporting is to be highly commended.
- It is very important that problems about recreation/conservation are publicly aired and the greatest value of the Project has been the opportunity it has provided for public statements on the real problems.
- It can be said that the Speyside Project has demonstrated unequivocally the usefulness of the co-ordinating role that can be played by the Countryside Commission in Speyside.

5.3 Other comments, however, entered certain points of criticism. These included:

- The solutions proposed to management problems tend to be a little stereotyped. The uniqueness of the Speyside environment and the diversity of recreational experience that it can support, argues for a rather more comprehensive attitude to the visitor.
- A defect of the first two interim reports is an over-dramatisation of the effects of recreational pressures and over-emphasis of the failure of one conservation organisation to deal with them.
- The design or protection of environments aimed at maintaining aesthetic values are not directly related to increased wardening services, integrated or not.
- There is an implicit assumption that people want information. The concept of information provision by a ranger in intimate contact with visitors may be wrong for wilderness areas of the Cairngorm type.

- 5.4 Regarding the future development of ranger services, the point was made that, to be effective, rangers must be free to operate over the whole of the ground; that subject to visitor pressures the service should not have its activities channelled into specified pieces of land, be they footpath or access areas of open mountainside without reference to adjacent land, which in the present circumstances are equally accessible to the public. In the view of some commentators, it was thought unsatisfactory that certain existing statutory bodies should have separate ranger-type services and, in recognising that the creation of National Parks would require new legislation, it was observed that it might be easier to bring in new legislation to create a national countryside ranger service, perhaps with some form of elected body in control. Finally, the point was also made that the Commission should not abandon the Project until new legislation had been brought about to enable the services provided by the Project to be placed on a permanent footing.
- 5.5 In considering these and other observations, the Commission were mindful of this final point, that in terminating the Project they might be seen as having left unfinished a task to which it appeared they had set their hand. Indeed, as explained in 4.10 above, there was some substance for this concern because, in their consideration of the Project Officer's second interim report, the Commission had in fact agreed to seek government approval to the continuance of the ranger element of the Project as a permanent contribution to visitor management in Speyside. This approval, however, had not been forthcoming except in terms of a further extension of the Project or on condition that a permanent land base for a ranger could be clearly identified as for any other ranger employed under the Countryside (Scotland) Act.
- 5.6 In this way, the full force of the existing legislative restrictions on the employment of rangers came once again to be recognised: that their area or areas of operation must relate primarily to land or water over which the employing authority has a legal interest, be it by ownership, lease or agreement - such as an agreement under Part II of the Act. The point had been made by central government in the earliest discussions about the development of ranger services, it had been reaffirmed in regard to the concept of integration of existing ranger-type activities, and it was now being restated in the particular context of whether the Project could continue for a further period.

- 5.7 In retrospect, it may be asked why this issue was not clarified beyond any shadow of doubt before the Project was approved. There are two reasons for this. First, at the time that discussions opened on the possibility of carrying out the Project, the strength and limitations of the Countryside (Scotland) Act were only beginning to be tested and, although doubts had been voiced early on as to the long-term legal possibility of the kind of service proposed by the Technical Group, less attention was paid to these doubts than to the apparently authoritative recommendation of the Technical Group and the clamant appeals for positive action. The second reason lay in the strength of these appeals, particularly from the private sector, even to the extent of serious consideration being given for a short time to the establishment of a national ranger service. Indeed, such was the growing enthusiasm for this idea as it gained support also from some sectors of local authority opinion, that it even began to seem possible that the Speyside Project could develop into the first steps towards such a national ranger service.
- 5.8 Nevertheless, as already explained in the concluding paragraphs to Chapter 4, deep probing of the real powers of the Countryside (Scotland) Act inevitably led towards profound rethinking of the Project's future. However long it ran, it could never lead to the permanent creation of the kind of ranger service proposed by the Technical Group. All it could do would be to continue reaffirming the need for such a service and this would hold true whether the proposed employing agency were the Commission or some other body, such as a local authority. Thus it had to be concluded, notwithstanding the excellence of the work being achieved by the Project staff and approval from Central Government to extend the Project for another year, that the Commission were left with no option but to bring the Project itself to a close. What remained was to do so in such a way as to minimise the effect of withdrawing the services of the Project staff: a solution being found in collaboration with the Highlands and Islands Development Board over their Cairngorm estate, as recommended by the Project Officer in his third interim report. In it, he invited the Commission to approve a proposal to initiate discussions with the Board with a view to promoting the development of a properly constituted ranger service over their Cairngorm Estate, supported by adequate facilities to ensure efficient operations which he had detailed in preceding pages. Such discussions have now taken place and led to completed negotiations for the employment of the Assistant Project Officer as the Commission's first full-time Ranger operating under a contract from

the Board to the Commission. The Project Officer himself has now been transferred to the headquarters staff of the Commission in a new post of Ranger Services Advisory Officer. In that capacity, he will continue to maintain an interest in Speyside, firstly as the officer directly responsible for the Commission's Cairngorm Estate Ranger Service and secondly - inasmuch as it is practicable to do so, allowing for other much wider duties - to continue providing a forum for liaison amongst persons providing ranger-type services in Speyside.

- 5.9 What lessons can be learnt from the Speyside Project ? The consensus view - inasmuch as this can be objectively given - is that as a demonstration of a service leading to a marked improvement in collaboration amongst existing agencies, the Project has been a considerable success. Furthermore, there seems to have been a majority in agreement that it fully demonstrated the need for a permanent ranger service in Speyside. More debatable, perhaps, is whether the demonstrated service always maintained a stance independent of sectional interests. Indeed, it is suggested that this concept - introduced by the Technical Group - was somewhat of a false lead because it is arguable that no service can be totally independent of a sectional interest albeit that it may continually strive - as did the Speyside Project - to have a high regard for other people's points of view. More debatable still is the extent to which the Project successfully demonstrated any moves towards integration of existing services. What it did show, was how such services could collaborate more effectively in the service of the public.
- 5.10 As to more general conclusions about the nature of the objectives of the Project and the methods used to carry it out, it should be noted that the objectives required certain people to perform certain tasks, which did not require them to leave behind any permanent visible evidence of what they had achieved. No capital works were funded out of the Project and therefore any measures of success judged in these terms, could accrue only from evidence of what others might be encouraged to spend - for example on better litter clearance - or from evidence from persons or bodies not needing to spend money because, say, damage inadvertently caused by visitors did not take place.
- 5.11 Potentially, at least, one source of evidence could flow from direct observation of the Project's progress. But to do this without introducing one possible element of observer bias would have necessitated employing separate people to monitor the effectiveness of simulating a ranger service from those actually performing this part of the Project. Looking back, the

unlikelihood of funds having been made available to employ this technique for the Speyside Project is, in a sense, beside the point because the Commission did not foresee the possible need for a separation of these functions - nor would they necessarily today regard such a need as valid, bearing in mind the way the Project started and its objectives.

5.12 A further general point about employing small numbers of people to carry out a project not having readily observable goals, specified in detail from the start, is that the results are likely to be much coloured by the aptitudes and interests of the project staff. In the case of the Speyside Project this resulted in opportunities for publicising the Commission's activities being used as a way of achieving some of the objectives. This is in no sense a criticism of how the Project Officer's priorities were ordered and, indeed, his experience in public relations contributed greatly to further the aim of collaboration. It does, however, point to the general lesson that projects strongly dependent on individuals may have implications for demonstration purposes, if their particular combination of attributes is unlikely to be recruited easily by other agencies wanting to employ similar people on a permanent basis, as a follow-up to the demonstration provided by the project itself. This can be looked at in another way, by observing that in considering the Project's results, some difficulty may be found in distinguishing between those which should have been produced by anyone carefully selected for recruitment to the Project, and results more dependent on the particular personnel recruited.

5.13 This difficulty may be compounded by the thought that, in popular terms, it may be the less essential results that attract the greatest attention - even to the dismay of the Project staff themselves. The "Cairngorm Clean-Up Campaigns", for example, served a variety of purposes. They demonstrated that many different agencies could be encouraged to work collectively in a common cause. They demonstrated the potential value of a ranger service in recruiting volunteer labour: numbers involved over the four years 1970 to 1974 being 100, 300, 400 and 700 respectively. They provided a great deal of publicity both for the Commission and the Project Officer. But to what extent did they actually begin to reduce the volume of litter being left behind in Speyside? The Project was not able to provide conclusive evidence about this and it is possible that some other kind of approach might in the long run actually be more successful in the control of litter.

- 5.14 Three final lessons. First, the Project reaffirmed that under existing legislation, ranger services must relate to areas over which the employing authority has a statutory basis on which to operate the service and a clearly defined role in the management of visitors to those areas. Second, it has shown that problems can arise when demonstrating the need for a potentially desirable kind of service, well ahead of legislation giving statutory shape as to how that service might actually operate. Third, it has stressed the fact that a ranger service is part of the whole land management responsibility and that difficulties may arise in attempting to introduce a ranger service, in the absence of an effective overall management framework within which the service can operate.
- 5.15 In conclusion, it is the Commission's view that the Speyside Project discharged its objectives as fully as proved possible, in the light of limitations clarified during the course of the Project. If it had not been conceived as a type of experimental demonstration, there would have been no point in carrying it out. As to whether it will ever lead to a permanent service of the kind demonstrated, this is a question for the future.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

PART I: GENERAL WORKS

- 1 ALEXANDER H (1938) The Cairngorms Edinburgh, Scottish Mountaineering Club. Major Revision (1968) 4th Edition
 - 2 BROWN P & WATERSTON G (1962) The Return of the Osprey London Collins
 - 3 DARLING F F & BOYD J M (1969) The Highlands and Islands London Collins 2nd Edition
 - 4 FIRSOFF V A (1965) On Ski in the Cairngorms Edinburgh & London Chambers
 - 5 McVEAN D N & LOCKIE J D (1969) Ecology and Land Use in Upland Scotland Edinburgh University Press
 - 6 PEARSALL W H (1950) Mountains and Moorlands London Collins (New 1971 Edition)
 - 7 SMITH M (1961, 1963) Climbers' Guide, Cairngorms Area 2 Vols Edinburgh. Scottish Mountaineering Club
 - 8 STEVEN H M & CARLISLE A (1959) The Native Pinewoods of Scotland Edinburgh & London Oliver & Boyd
 - 9 WALTON J (1956) Glen More Edinburgh (National Forest Parks Guides) HMSO
-

PART II

- 10 BAYFIELD N G (1971) Some Effects of Walking and Ski-ing on Vegetation at Cairngorm Symp Brit Ecol Soc II
- 11 COPPOCK J T (Ed) (1970) Upper Speyside Edinburgh Report by Dept of Geography University of Edinburgh - for Scottish Tourist Board
- 12 COUNTRYSIDE (SCOTLAND) ACT 1967 London HMSO
- 13 COUNTRYSIDE COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND Annual Reports (1970-75) HMSO
1971 Information Sheet No 2 - Access Agreements
1972 Information Sheet No 3 - Notes for Guidance: Employment of Rangers
1975 A Park System for Scotland
- 14 CRANSTON A M (1972) Problems of Litter and Domestic Waste Disposal in Rural Scotland Edinburgh Association for the Preservation of Rural Scotland.

- 15 LANGMUIR E (1969) Mountain Leadership Edinburgh Scottish Council
Reprinted 1973 of Physical Recreation /Scottish Sports Council
- 16 MILLMAN R (1971) Outdoor Recreation in the Highland
Countryside Cambridge University
Library
- 17 MUTCH W E S (1967) Public Recreation in National Forests
Report prepared for the Forestry
Commission London HMSO
- 18 PARHAM E T (1973) The Speyside Study A report prepared by
Aberdeen University and Robert Gordon's
Institute of Technology for the North East
Scotland Development Authority
- 19 PAYNE M A (1970-74) The Speyside Project Annual Interim
Reports Countryside Commission for
Scotland
- 20 Report of the Select Committee on Land Use (1973) London
House of Commons
- 21 Report on a Survey of Visitor Use of the Cairngorms National Nature
Reserve (1973) Edinburgh Nature Conservancy Council
- 22 Anon (1972) Torridon - Conservation and Economic
Opportunity: A Case Study Countryside
Commission for Scotland and Ross and
Cromarty County Council
- 23 Anon (1971) Glen Coe and Rannoch Moor: A Conservation
and Recreation Report Countryside Commission
for Scotland
- 24 TECHNICAL PLANNING GROUP Cairngorm Area HMSO
(1967)
- 25 STUDY GROUP NO 9 (1965) Countryside: Planning and Development in
Scotland One of a series of reports to
"The Countryside in 1970" second conference
The Royal Society of Arts, London.

APPENDIX I

THE SPEYSIDE PROJECT : CHRONOLOGY OF MAIN EVENTS

Year One : April 1971 - March 1972

- April First Aviemore Meeting to discuss Project Officer's activities. Patrol areas established. Patrols commence.
- Project Officer appointed to Cairngorm Mountain Rescue Committee.
- May Project Officer makes study visit to Peak District National Park.
- Radio equipment ordered following approval of radio frequencies from Forestry Commission and Mountain Rescue Committee.
- Land Rover signs and insignia approved and fitted.
- June-September Seasonal assistants employed.
- July 10-17 First (trial) Cairngorms Clean-Up Campaign.
- August First joint Nature Conservancy Council/Countryside Commission for Scotland visitor survey in Cairngorms.
- Radio installed in Land Rover.
- September Project Officer reports on severe lack of tent camping facilities at Aviemore.
- October Preparation of the First Interim Report.
- November Party of six young people die in blizzard on Cairngorm plateau.
- December First Interim Report - including recommendation for appointment of Assistant Project Officer endorsed for circulation by Commission.
- January 1972 First Interim Report circulated for discussion.

Year Two : April 1972 - March 1973

April	Second Aviemore meeting to discuss First Interim Report and second year activities.
May	Seasonal assistants employed. Interviews for Assistant Project Officer.
June	Assistant Project Officer (Mr Jo Porter) appointed.
July-September	Plateau visitor survey carried out by Project staff. Badenoch District survey of upland footpaths.
August	Second Cairngorm Clean-up Campaign.
September	Preparation of Second Interim Report.
October	Inverness County Council resolution for the creation of a national park for the whole Cairngorm area.
November	Second Interim Report recommending a permanent Countryside Commission ranger service submitted for the consideration of the Commission.
December	Visit to Speyside of House of Lords Select Committee on Sport and Leisure. The Commission agrees to cost-sharing of weather forecast service in co-operation with the Scottish Sports Council.
February 1973	Second Interim Report circulated for discussion.

Year Three : April 1973 - March 1974

April	Third Aviemore meeting to discuss Second Interim Report.
May	Visit of Parliamentary Select Committee on Scottish Affairs - Sub-Committee on Land Use. Project Officer acts as Director of Speyside Ranger Training Course. Co-operative ranger/warden patrolling scheme agreed between local staff of Nature Conservancy Council and Commission.

June	Common ranger badge scheme introduced for trial period. Plan announced to demolish high-level refuge shelters. Integrated information leaflet prepared and issued by the Speyside Wildlife Group. Scottish Development Department approval for two-year extension to Project to examine feasibility of a permanent Commission ranger service. Guided walks programme commenced.
July	Nature Conservancy Council visitor survey of Cairngorms National Nature Reserve.
August	Third Cairngorm Clean-up Campaign. Project Officer has initial discussions regarding a ranger service on HIDB Cairngorm Estate.
October	Third Interim Report in preparation.
February 1974	Third Interim Report submitted to Commission. Review of Project initiated.
March	Decision to bring Project to a conclusion at end of 1974. Discussions between CCS and HIDB on ranger service for Cairngorm Estate. Copies of Third Interim Report circulated to main agencies, with covering letter referring to review of the future of the Project.

APPENDIX II

THE PROPOSED ROTHIEMURCHUS ACCESS AGREEMENT : CHRONOLOGY OF MAIN EVENTS

January 1971	The question of an access agreement raised by Rothiemurchus Estate with Inverness County Council as a matter of urgency.
May 1971	First draft proposals prepared by Rothiemurchus Estate.
December 1971	Inverness County Council Planning Committee agree to negotiate on revised draft proposals submitted by Rothiemurchus Estate.
January 1972	Draft access agreement produced by County Council.
February 1972	Trustees of Rothiemurchus Estate informed that the access agreement would not cover the whole of the low ground, only the access routes to the open access area.
April 1973	After lengthy negotiations fresh draft agreement sent by Inverness County Council to Rothiemurchus Estate.
July 1973	Sub-Committee of County Planning Committee reject draft access agreement and suggest modifications.
22 July 1973	The Estate notifies Inverness County Council and the Countryside Commission for Scotland that there is no useful purpose in discussing any further modification to the agreement as the Estate had already gone to the limit of concessions which would leave a reasonable measure of protection to its interests.
September 1973	Inverness County Council formally note that access agreement negotiations have ceased; nevertheless while having been unable to ratify their draft access agreement and Rothiemurchus Estate not being prepared to discuss the matter further, the County Council still feel anxious that the matter should not be allowed to rest without trying to re-open negotiations.
29 October 1973	Inverness County Council write to the Countryside Commission for Scotland confirming that they do not wish the matter to rest without attempting to re-open negotiations at a future date and that, in this event, they would seek the Commission's advice.

TIONAL
ANGER
ERVICE
IOOTED

CAIRNGORMS BACK TO 'ORIGINAL WILDERNESS'

DAILY TELEGRAPH REPORTER

ST STEP towards a
l ranger service,

Lifters

unteers, nearly
ish holiday-
ere out on the
is yesterday
the Country-
mission cam-
clear litter from
ains.

Cairngorms clean-up

A massive clean-up campaign
in the Cairngorms is being
launched at the weekend by
the Countryside Commission.
A similar
yielded for
throughout
Mr. Ma
commissioner

A WEEK-LONG clearance campaign
among some of the highest pe

CLEAN UP IS UNDER WAY

A BIG clean-up of the
Valley-Cairngorm are
nised by Mr. Malcolm
e. the Countryside
ission officer, is unde
and although the
um effort in clearing
from the mountainside

Speyside project could pioneer ranger service

LITTER LIFTERS CLEAN UP THE CAIRNGORMS

SIDE Commis-
t officer for Spey-
Malcolm Payne,
said the biggest
campaign of the in-
clude the first d.
clean-up of the
ains' 370
of litter
com Payne, of the
le Commission for

Big clean-up in Cairngorm area

E of the group who took part in
g clean-up which not under-
ci TIDYING UP THE
you CAIRNGORMS

The Countryside Commis-
sioning a massive
campaign in the
weekend
of his area
Cairngorms
Last year
an clean-up
bban

'CLEAN-UP' DRIVE CAIRNGORM CLEAN-UP

●The first ever clean up
of the Cairngorm mountains
and valleys organised by
the Countryside Commission
ended yesterday with 240
bags, weighing 4,080lbs, of
litter taken from the valleys
and 230 bags weighing
3,910lbs, from the mountains

his instructors, are on a course at the
ledge and volunteered to help.
Speyside Commission officer Mr
-manise the cam-

Speyside clean-up

Mr. Malcolm Payne,
Countryside
officer for
launcing this
another clean
of his area
Cairngorms
Last year
an clean-up
bban

Clean-up
campaign a
tidy success

THE CAIRNGORMS CLEAN-UP

Sir, - May 1, through your
columns, offer my very sincere
thanks to the following for
their great help and co-
operation in our anti-litter
campaign: Newtongrange
Club, 1st Row, South

Cairngor
Forges A

RANGE
REQUI

CAIRN
Cairngorm

cleanest fo
Cairngorm-Speyside Pr

UNIQUE, EXCIT
OPPORTUNIT
Co-ordinate

SCOTTISH SUNDAY EXPRESS Glasgow August 6 1972

A 4,296f
clean lit

Cont
Operatio

in Ca

Litter blitz

s Clean-Up

ead

and defaces the countryside.
"Splendid campaigns have
taken place in Moray and
Aberdeenshire this past few
months, and the message i

SERVICE
ED FOR
GORMS

"at their

50 years"

BIG BID TO

CLEAN UP

THE

ranger service help clean Cairngorms

climb to
er off a
mountain
'Mop-up'
Cairngorms

HIGH LEVEL
LITTER
AIR LIFT?

MEMBERS of Strathspey Mountain Club cleared
more litter yesterday from the Shelter Stone, which
represents the biggest problem of the Cairngorm
clean-up campaign.

Mrs Mollie Porter, King of
ussie, international
and man

Operation Clean-up

organised for
Cairngorm area

Interest in Cairngorm

two-
p th
onta
ts

THE clean-up of the
ay spark
the area
ATC sq
ed aircraft
colm Payne
de comi
ho organise
on the
high is now

ANTI-LITTER
CAMPAIGN

IN FULL SWING

MASSIVE anti-litter

Anti-litter m
in mountain

Mr Malcolm Payne,
Countryside Commission of
for Speyside, another anti-litter

Volunteers from three to

an-up of the
untains and
esterday af
Ialcolm Pay
Commiss
ised the C
esponse fr
is big as

Clean-up up there

THE Cairngorms are practically cl
litter for the first time in 50 ye
thanks to nearly 400 volunteers who to
in a weekend clean-up.

They filled 370 4296ft) the
sacks with rubbish—main in the ti
which included

TREMENDOUS RESPONSE TO
ANTI-LITTER CAMPAIGN

THE first large-scale clear
mountains and valleys ende
Malcolm Payne, Cromdale,
mission's officer, who organ
the response from the public

The week-long campaign p
attracted the notice of Press, S
radio and TV.

THE BIGGEST CAIRNGORM

CLEAN-UP OF 'EM ALL

NEXT week will see the start of
campaign which will cover not
Valley from Newtonmore to Gr
Cairngorm plateau

Clean-Up Campaign

5000 TINS REMOVE
FROM MOUNTAINS

ich the previous year
arn- campaign yielded
ek sacks. Much of
accumulated litter

400 Summer-clean

Cairngorm
War O
Litter Sta
Again

THE annual anti-
campaign organised
the Countryside Comm

New effo

to clean
Speyside

other clean-up campa
Speyside area, and
nds of acres of
orms, is being lau
weekend by Mr Ma
Countryside Comm
for Speyside.

MORAY
SPEY
WAR
ON

LITTER

